

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a template determination section configured to determine, upon reception of a first job including a first file to be printed, whether or not the first job is associated with a first template which is ~~provided to the first job and~~ indicates that ~~a plurality of files including the first file and a second file are~~ is to be merged, ~~and upon reception of a second job including a second file to be printed, whether or not the second job is associated with a second template which is provided to the second job and indicates that the second file is to be merged wherein the second file is included in a second job;~~

a job holding section configured to store the first job in a storage section when it is determined by the template determination section that the first job ~~includes~~ is associated with the first template;

a template analysis section configured to determine, based on the first template ~~and the second template~~, whether or not ~~all jobs including the plurality of files~~ the first job to be merged ~~with the second job are~~ is stored in the storage section; and

a control section configured to exert control ~~based on the template~~ so as to merge and print the ~~plurality of files~~ first file and the second file when it is determined by the template analysis section that ~~all the jobs are~~ the first job to be merged with the second job is stored in the storage section.

2. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the first template is included in a job name.

3. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the first template comprises serial numbers set for the ~~plurality of the files~~ first file.

4. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein

the template determination section is further configured to determine whether the first file associated with a third [[the]] template comprises of a pair of comprising at least one of a first symbol indicating that the first file is to be temporarily stored in the storage section and or a second symbol indicating that files temporarily stored in the storage section are to be merged and printed.

5. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the first job comprises, other than data and a print execution command of the file, a specific print processing instruction indicating at least one of double-sided printing, intensive printing, stapling or punching.

6. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein printing of [[all]] the first and second jobs is executed in compliance with a specific print processing instruction contained in a last received job among all the jobs the second job.

7. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1, further comprising a communication section configured to receive jobs containing files to be printed via a network.

8. (Currently Amended) An image forming method, comprising:
determining, upon reception of a first job including a file to be printed, whether or not the first job is associated with a first template provided to the first job and indicating that a plurality of files including the first file and a second file are to be merged, wherein the second file is included in a second job and upon reception of a second job including a second file to be printed, whether or not the second job is associated with a second template which is provided to the second job and indicates that the second file is to be merged;

storing the first job in a storage section when it is determined that the first job includes is associated with the first template;

analyzing based on the first template and the second template whether or not all jobs including the plurality of files the first job to be merged with the second job has have been stored in the storage section; and

exercising control ~~based on the template~~ so as to merge and print the plurality of files first file and the second file when it is determined that ~~all the jobs have~~ the first job to be merged with the second job has been stored in the storage section.

9. (Currently Amended) The image forming method as defined in Claim 8, wherein the first template is included in a job name.

10. (Currently Amended) The image forming method as defined in Claim 8, wherein the first template comprises serial numbers set for the first file plurality of the files.

11. (Currently Amended) The image forming method as defined in Claim 8, ~~wherein further~~ comprising:

determining whether the first file is associated with a third [[the]] template comprises of a pair of comprising at least one of a first symbol indicating that the first file is to be temporarily stored in the storage section and or a second symbol indicating that files temporarily stored in the storage section are to be merged and printed.

12. (Previously Presented) The image forming method as defined in Claim 8, wherein the first job includes, other than data and a print execution command of the file, specific print processing instructions indicating double-sided printing, intensive printing, stapling and punching.

13. (Currently Amended) The image forming method as defined in Claim 8, wherein printing of [[all]] the first and second jobs is executed in compliance with a specific print processing instruction contained in ~~a last received job among all the jobs~~ the second job.

14. (Original) The image forming method as defined in Claim 8, wherein jobs containing files to be printed are received by a communication section via a network.

15. (Currently Amended) An image forming system, comprising:

a terminal connected to a network, the terminal configured to instruct a first job including a first file and a second job including a second file to be printed;

a printing section connected to the network, the printing section configured to execute printing in response to an instruction or control;

a template determination section configured to determine whether or not the first job instructed by the terminal via the network is associated with a first template which is provided to the first job and indicates that ~~a plurality of files including the first file and a second file are~~ is to be merged, wherein the second file is included in a second job whether or not the second job instructed by the terminal via the network is associated with a second template which is provided to the second job and indicates that the second file is to be merged;

a job holding section configured to store the first job in a storage section when it is determined by the template determination section that the first job ~~includes~~ is associated with the first template;

a template analysis section configured to determine, based on the first template and the second template, whether or not ~~all jobs including the plurality of files the first job~~ to be merged with the second job is ~~are~~ stored in the storage section; and

a control section configured to exert control ~~based on the template~~ so as to merge the ~~plurality of files~~ first file and the second file and make the printing section print the plurality of files when it is determined by the template analysis section that ~~all the jobs have the first job to be merged with the second job~~ has been stored in the storage section.

16. (New) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a template determination section configured to determine, upon reception of a job including a file to be printed, whether or not the job is associated with a template which is provided to each of

a plurality of jobs and indicates that the file is to be merged with another file included in another job;

a template analysis section configured to determine, based on the template, whether or not the template is a predetermined template indicating that the job is to be merged with the other job and to be printed;

a job holding section configured to store the job in a storage section when it is determined by the template analysis section that the template is not the predetermined template;

a control section configured to exert control based on the template so as to merge the file with the other file stored in the storage section and print when it is determined by the template analysis section that the template is the predetermined template.

17. (New) The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 16, wherein the template is included in a job name.

18. (New) The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 16, wherein the template comprises serial numbers set for the file.

19. (New) The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 16, wherein the template determination section is further configured to determine whether a second file is associated with a second template comprising at least one of a first symbol indicating that the first file is to be temporarily stored in the storage section or a second symbol indicating that files temporarily stored in the storage section are to be merged and printed.

20. (New) The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 16, wherein the first job comprises, other than data and a print execution command of the file, a specific print processing instruction indicating at least one of double-sided printing, intensive printing, stapling or punching.

21. (New) The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 16, wherein printing of all the jobs is executed in compliance with a specific print processing instruction contained in a last received job among all the jobs.

22. (New) The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 16, further comprising a communication section configured to receive jobs containing files to be printed via a network.